

Final Report to NYSDAM

PRODUCTION, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PROGRAM FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

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In 2008 the NYS IPM program voluntarily developed organic vegetable production guides for carrots, peas, snap beans, and cucurbits after a need for them was identified in meetings with NYSDAM, vegetable processors, and growers.

In 2009 NYSDAM contracted with NYS IPM for nine additional guides, including apples, grapes, strawberries, blueberries, lettuce, spinach, cole crops, potatoes, and dairy, and for annual updates of these and the original four guides. Two part-time writer/editors familiar with both vegetable production and organic production was hired to coordinate production of the guides. The format and content of the guides were based on the Cornell Integrated Crop and Pest Management Guidelines for Commercial Vegetable Production, and the individual Guidelines for fruit production, which included many cultural practices allowed for organic production. Practices and products not allowed for organic production were removed and groups of Cornell faculty, Cornell Cooperative Extension field staff, and farmers were convened to work with the production team to populate the organic guides with practices and products allowed for organic production. Products included in the guides are all Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) listed or otherwise determined to be allowable for organic production. The Pest Management Education Program (PMEP) provided oversight and assurance that the product recommendation information was accurate and legal.

Annual updates included removing products no longer OMRI listed, adding newly listed products, adding new product efficacy information as it became available, and updating cultural practices as new research results became available.

A storage guide for organic fruit and vegetable crops was produced in 2012 under a separate contract.

All 14 organic guides are available at no cost as pdf downloads at:
http://www.nysipm.cornell.edu/organic_guide/

The following table shows the number of downloads of the guides from January 2011 thru September 2013.

Title (Production Guide for Organic...)	Year Completed	Total number of downloads*
Carrots	2009	522
Cole Crops	2010	526
Cucurbits	2009	778
Lettuce	2010	548
Peas	2009	318
Potato	2010	556
Snap Beans	2009	641
Spinach	2010	436
Apples	2010	875
Blueberries	2010	527
Grapes	2010	442
Strawberries	2010	568
Organic Guide for Dairy	2010	434
Storage of Organic Fruits and Vegetables	2012	304

*Jan. 1, 2011 – Sept. 30, 2013. Statistics for 2010 are not useable due to a change in analytic software